REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Further consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-16 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Gregerson '968 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claim 1 defines a collaborative multi-component system, wherein each component monitors status data from itself and other components representing a current level of need for that component to be reinitialized. While the component is operable to perform at least one task when not being initialized, the performance of that task is typically disrupted when the component is being initialized. Independent claims have been amended above so as to make this feature more explicit. Support in the specification will be found, for example, at page 1, line 14 and elsewhere, where the applicants explain that one object of the invention is to reduce the amount of disruption caused to the system as a whole during initialization of components therewithin. See, for example, the brief summary section at page 1, lines 29-34, of the specification.

While Gregerson does teach a scalable distributed computing environment, wherein managerial roles are negotiated between nodes, there is no relevant teaching with respect to collaborative decisions for reinitialization of any given node based on monitoring the status of data representing a current level of need for that component to be reinitialized.

- 9 -

The Examiner cites to passages in Gregerson at col. 11 that deal with reassigning management roles when role conflicts arise. While this does involve a distributed election that depends on the number of roles each participating kernel has already assumed, whether the participating kernels are active context bridges and the current state of each kernel, there is nothing here said about reinitializing any one of the kernels.

The Examiner's comments mostly ignore the meaning of "initialization" because the cited passages from Gregerson included in brackets after quotations of applicants' claim language relating to initialization have nothing whatever to do with initialization. However, at page 3, lines 12-13, of the office action, the Examiner explains that the foregoing assertions are based upon the assumption that "the assignment of the managerial role is interpreted as initialization".

However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's stated assumption is <u>not</u> a reasonable interpretation of applicants' claim language in light of the specification, as is required by MPEP §2111. The assignment of an additional managerial role to a given component does <u>not</u> involve any reinitialization process comparable to that described or claimed by the applicants. The above amendment to the independent claims makes this even more clearly apparent by requiring the component performance of the at least one task to be disrupted while that component is being initialized. Here, if a node is taking on a <u>new</u> managerial role, there would have been no on-going process to be

- 10 -

disrupted in that particular node. Furthermore, if the managerial role is being trans-
ferred to a different node, then the "old" node is certainly not being "initialized" for
resumption of that particular managerial role either.

The Examiner has not cited a single passage in Gregerson that even uses the
word "initializes" or "initialization" or the like. Although Gregerson does use such terms
elsewhere in the specification (e.g., see 13:27-49), these terms are therein used in a
completely different manner so as to describe execution of a "find resource" process
where the scope of a search and the level of that search and the status of any last
search at that level begins with a Find Query or a Persistent Find Query, the originating
node then initializing some of the appropriate variables so as to begin the search at the
machine level. It will, of course, be recognized that this description of "initialization" is in
an entirely different context and has an entirely different meaning than that described
and claimed by the applicants.

While Gregerson is concerned with distributed computing systems, it is not, in
fact, concerned with "initialization" (e.g., "re-booting") procedures for components of
such systems at all. It appears that the Examiner may only have been drawn to this
document at all via a mechanized search algorithm because it contains words such as
"*initializes*" (col. 13, line 45) and "*initialization*" (col. 13, line 49). But these instances
relate to <u>variables</u> being initialized as part of a procedure involving a search for com-
puting resources. These instances do not relate to the initialization <u>of components</u> of

- 11 -

computer systems in any way. There is no justification for the idea that the assignment of any role, managerial or otherwise, can arbitrarily be interpreted as "initialization", as this is not a "reasonable interpretation" of the word in the context of applicants' claims or otherwise.

As the Examiner has appreciated, Gregerson is concerned with the assignment and/or reassignment of "managerial" roles to nodes of a distributed computing network, but there is no suggestion that being assigned a managerial role involves a temporary cessation or any disruption in the performance of any other tasks by the node in question. Instead, being assigned a managerial role, in fact, involves a node performing additional tasks, rather than the performance of any tasks being temporarily disrupted or ceased.

The Examiner also does not seem to have taken any account of the claim 1 requirement that the "*at least one...component*" configured to perform the final four steps of the claim may select "*possibly itself*" for initialization. The idea that the component in question may "*...select one or more of said components, possibly itself...*" for "*...assignment of the managerial role...*" is not disclosed in Gregerson, possibly for the simple reason that it would be meaningless for this to happen in the managerial role transfer process therein described.

- 12 -

The first element of claim 1 has previously been amended so as to clarify that the components are operable to perform tasks, and to clarify that "being initialized" is not only different than "performing a task", but (at least implicitly) involves a temporary cessation or disruption in the "performing of tasks". The above amendment now makes it _explicit_ that initialization of a particular component involves disruption in the performance of the "at least one task" that the component is operable to perform when not being initialized.

With such amendment, Gregerson's concept of "assignment of the managerial role" _cannot_ be said to correspond to "initialization" because, *inter alia*, there is no suggestion in Gregerson that "being assigned a managerial role" involves any disruption in the performance of tasks that the components are operable to perform when not being initialized.
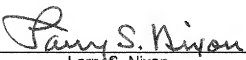
Given the already discussed fundamental deficiencies of Gregerson with respect to independent claims 1, 16, 23 and 24, it is not necessary at this time to discuss further deficiencies of Gregerson with respect to other aspects of the rejected claims. Suffice it to note that, as matter of law, it is impossible to support a *prima facie* case of anticipation unless a single cited reference teaches each and every feature of each rejected claim.

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Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition,

and a formal notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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- 14 -